

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07378 171754Z

47/13

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 170830Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9592

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 7378

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (7378 VICE 9592)

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJ: PRODUCT OPPORTUNITY: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

REF : STATE 271444

1. WE ARE TOLD THAT PROJECT HAS BEEN SHELVED. EXPLANATION IS THAT DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS LAST SUMMER TOLD THE LOCAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR THAT RATHER THAN A TRAPOSCATTER SYSTEM, A PORTABLE SATELLITE GROUND STATION COULD BE PROVIDED AT ABHA. (TWO SUCH STATIONS ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR RIYADH AND JIDDA PENDING COMPLETION OF THE TWO FULL-FLEDGED GROUND STATIONS AT THOSE CITIES. ONCE THE PERMANENT STATIONS ARE IN OPERATION, THE PORTABLE EQUIPMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL SITES.)

2. BETA COMPANY, LOCAL FIRM WHICH WAS COMPETING FOR THE TROPO-SCATTER PROJECT, CLAIMS THAT USE OF A SATELLITE GROUND STATION AT ABHA IS IMPRACTICAL ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS DUE TO POOR ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS, BUT THAT THE GOVERNOR OF ASIR (ABHA) HAS BECOME FASCINATED BY THE SATELLITE STATION AND IS NO LONGER WILLING TO ACCEPT THE TROPOSCATTER SYSTEM. BETA OF COURSE HAS A VESTED INTEREST, AND WE DO NOT SEE HOW TROPO-SCATTER COULD GIVE BETTER RESULTS THAN SATELLITE REGARDLESS OF CONDITIONS; HOWEVER, END RESULT IN ANY EVENT IS THAT TROPO-SCATTER PROJECT IS OUT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
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